



Fair Political Practices Commission

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NEWS ADVISORY

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FPPC Reviews Accomplishments and Goals For Improved Service as Strategic Plan is Considered

The Fair Political Practices Commission on Thursday (December 1) will consider adoption of a new strategic plan for the agency. As part of the process, commissioners will review the agency's successes during a period of dwindling resources as well as major goals for further improving services to the public and regulated community.

The commission's regular monthly meeting begins at 9:45 a.m. in the FPPC's eighth-floor hearing room at 428 J St. (Fifth and J Streets) in Sacramento.

In a staff memorandum accompanying the proposed strategic plan, FPPC Executive Director Mark Krausse outlined some of the agency's accomplishments despite recent years' budget reductions as well as further improvements that could be made at various levels of budget funding.

"The process of developing this document (the strategic plan) has necessarily been one of critical self-examination. It is important to take this occasion to call attention to the great many things we get right, to the many improvements we've made during a period of dwindling resources and mounting workload and, above all, to the great contributions of our dedicated employees," Krausse wrote.

The Executive Director said accomplishments have included:

- Despite a 33 percent reduction in staffing in the Enforcement Division during the past five years, the number of cases closed with fines over that same period remained virtually level, and total fine levels for that period were consistently if moderately higher.
- Similarly, despite diminished staff resources, the Legal Division has held its average response time on advice letters virtually level while handling

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implementation of Proposition 34, a higher level of regulatory work in general, and a marked increase in litigation and requests for opinions.

- The public voice of the commission, the Technical Assistance Division, has consistently delivered on its mission of education, regularly receiving commendations from candidates, filing officers and other public officials—again, all in the context of fewer division staff having to respond to increasingly complex and numerous requests for assistance.

Copies of both the draft strategic plan and memorandum are available in the current agenda section of the FPPC's website at www.fppc.ca.gov/index.html?id=329 (see agenda item #14).

Goals proposed in the draft strategic plan are intended for 2006-2010 and cover a broad range of the agency's mission. They include:

- Improving productivity and efficiency throughout the agency, including reducing the time needed to close enforcement complaints.
- Improving the recruitment and retention of employees throughout the agency.
- Securing sufficient funding, and a consistent funding source, to meet workload needs.
- Seeking amendments to the Political Reform Act that aid compliance and workload management.

Proposed enforcement fines, a draft request for an advisory letter from the Federal Election Commission and various proposed amendments to FPPC regulations are also on Thursday's meeting agenda.

The agenda and supporting memoranda and materials are posted on the FPPC's website at www.fppc.ca.gov. Just click on "Agendas" on the left side of the home page and go to "Current Agenda." The agenda is posted on the website 10 days before the meeting, and letters commenting on agenda items are also posted when received.

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